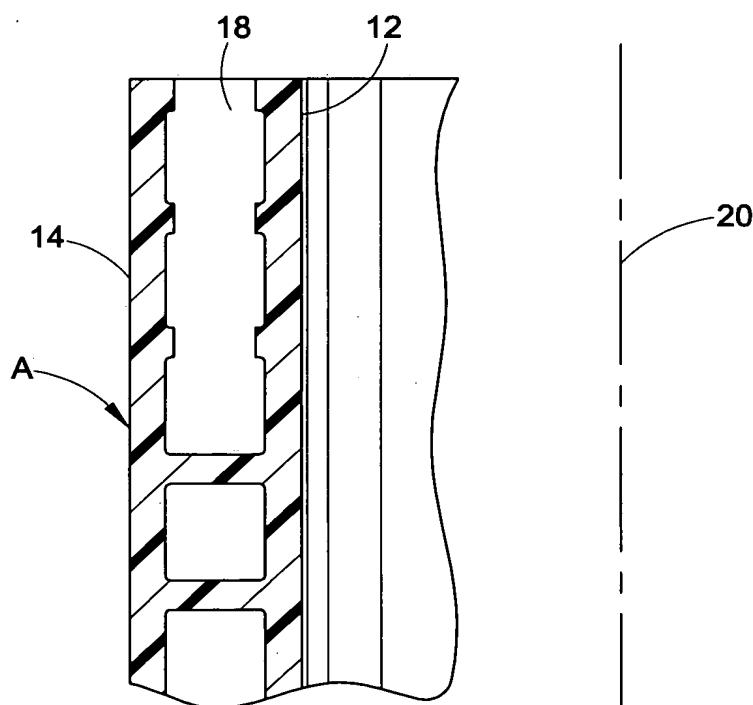
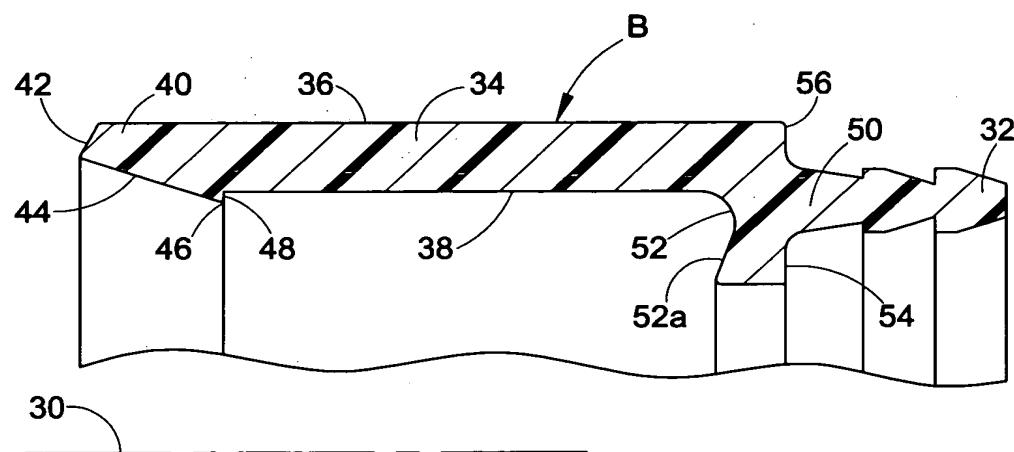


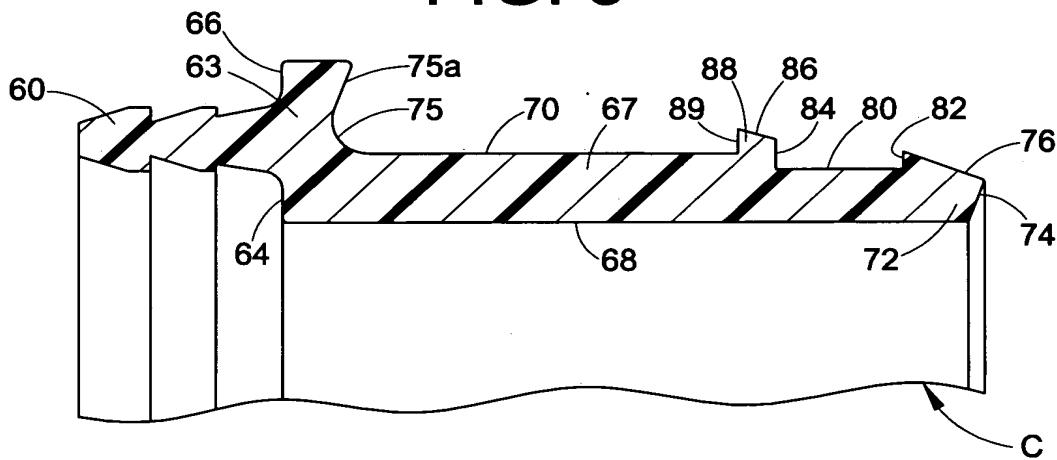
**FIG. 1**  
(PRIOR ART)



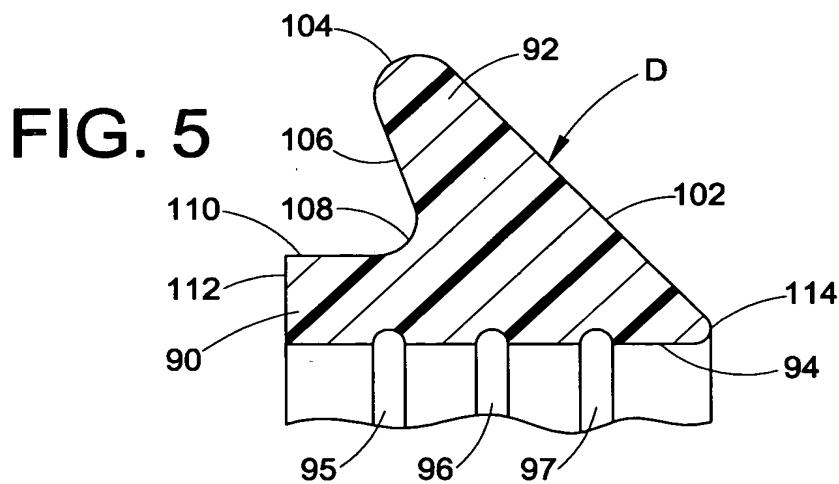
**FIG. 2**  
(PRIOR ART)



**FIG. 3**



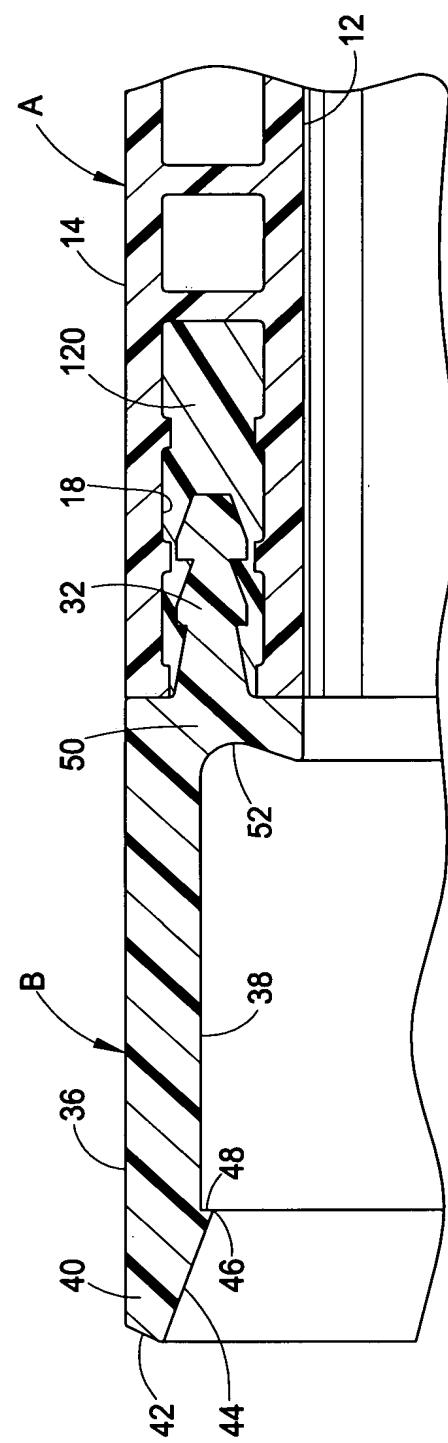
**FIG. 4**



**FIG. 5**



PIPE JOINT AND COUPLERS  
GEORGE J. FOOS  
SERIAL NO. 10/672,543  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 427600900028



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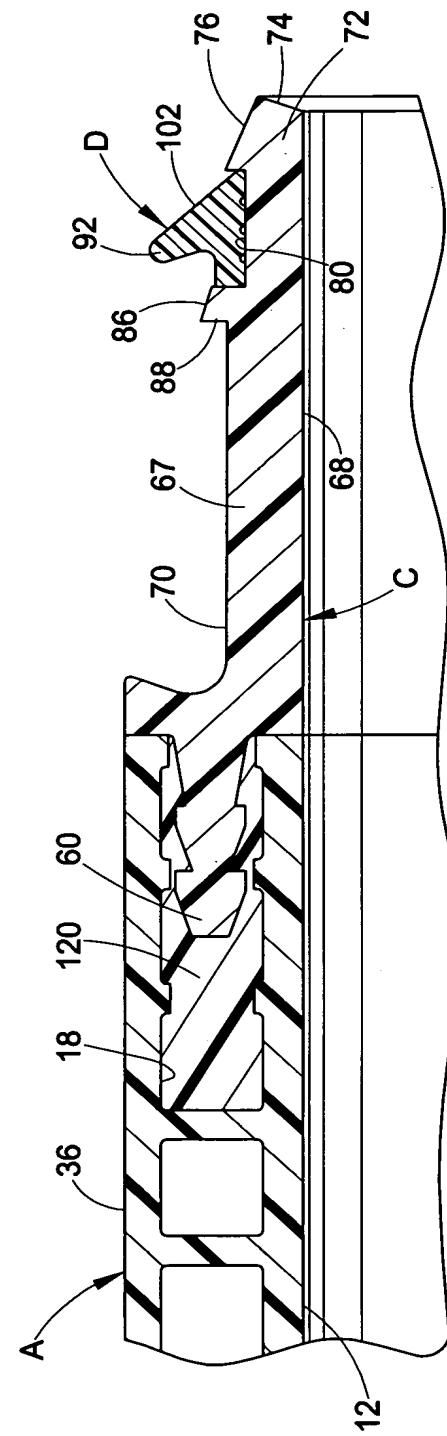


FIG. 7

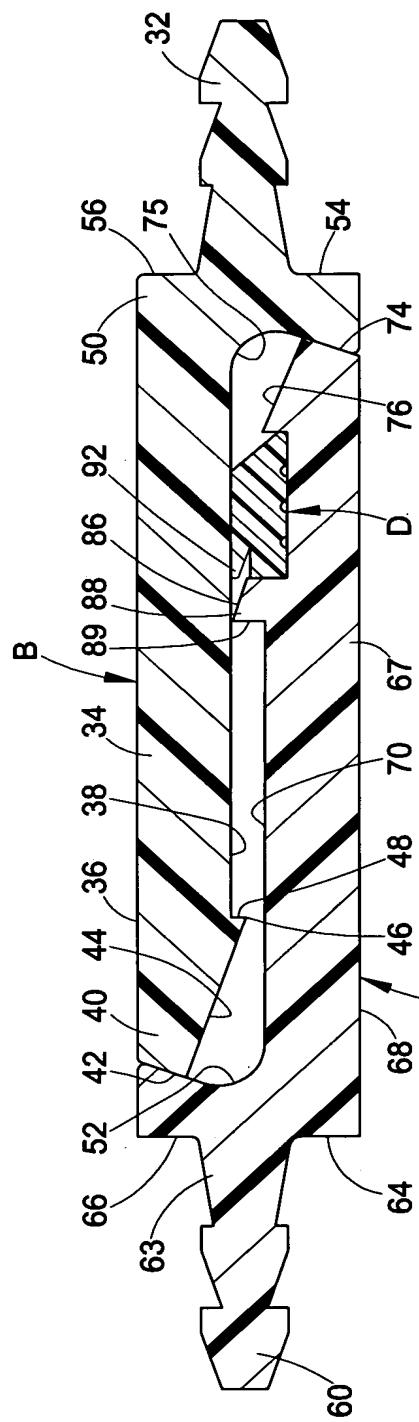


FIG. 8

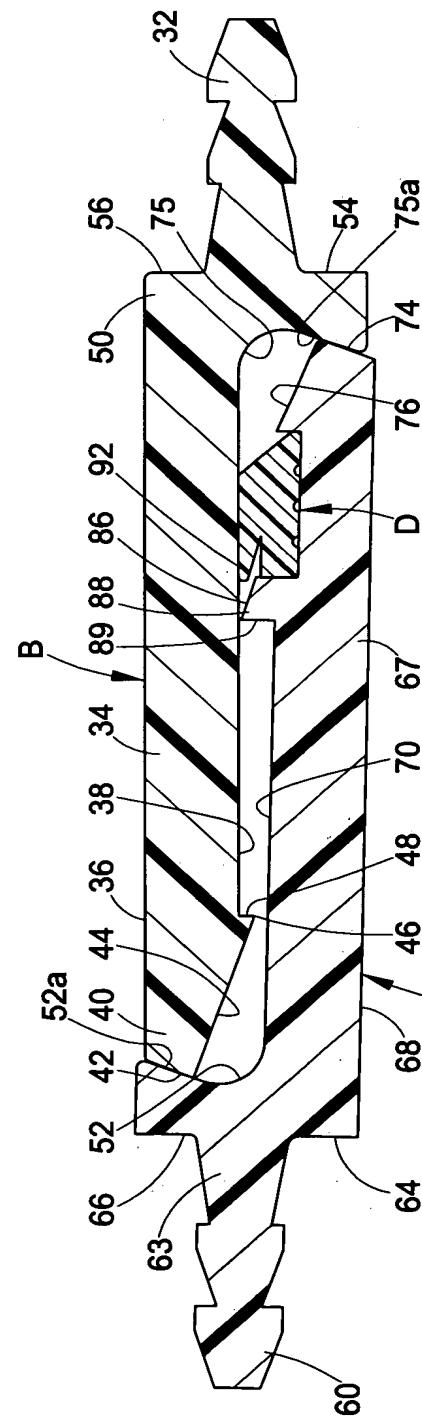


FIG. 9



PIPE JOINT AND COUPLERS  
GEORGE J. FOOS  
SERIAL NO. 10/672,543  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 427600900028

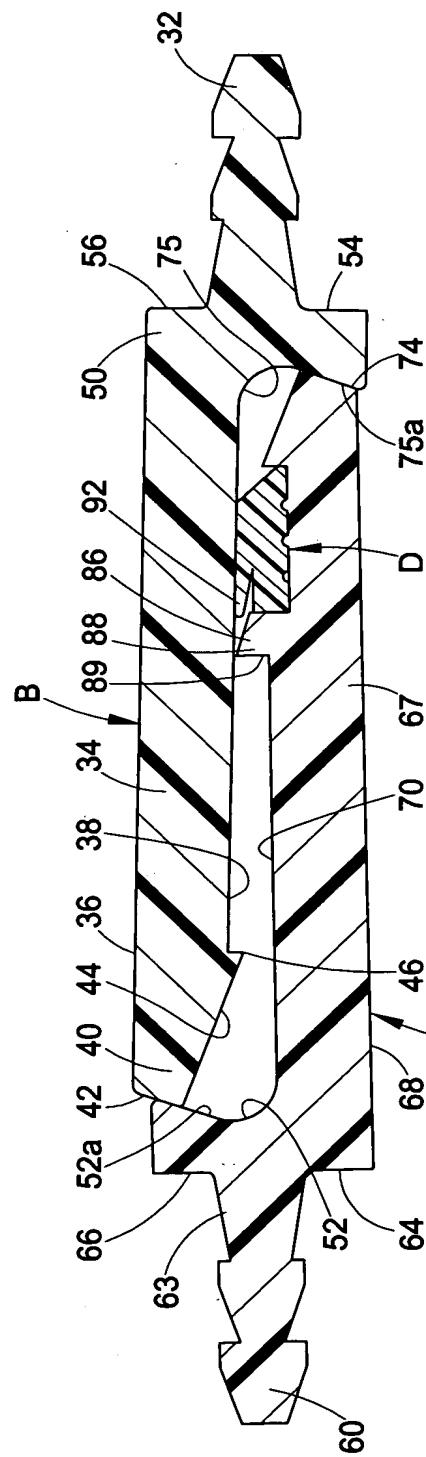
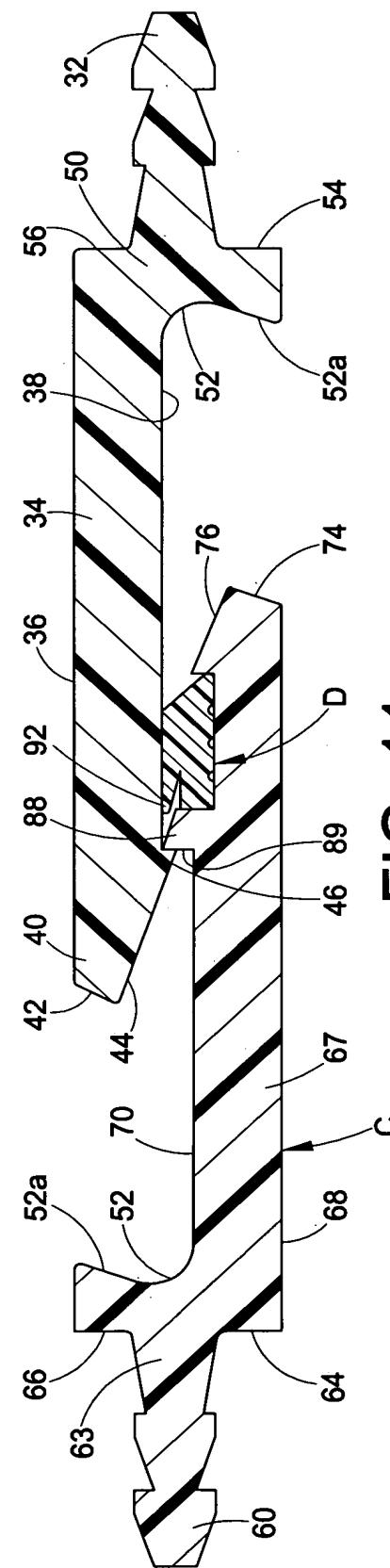


FIG. 10



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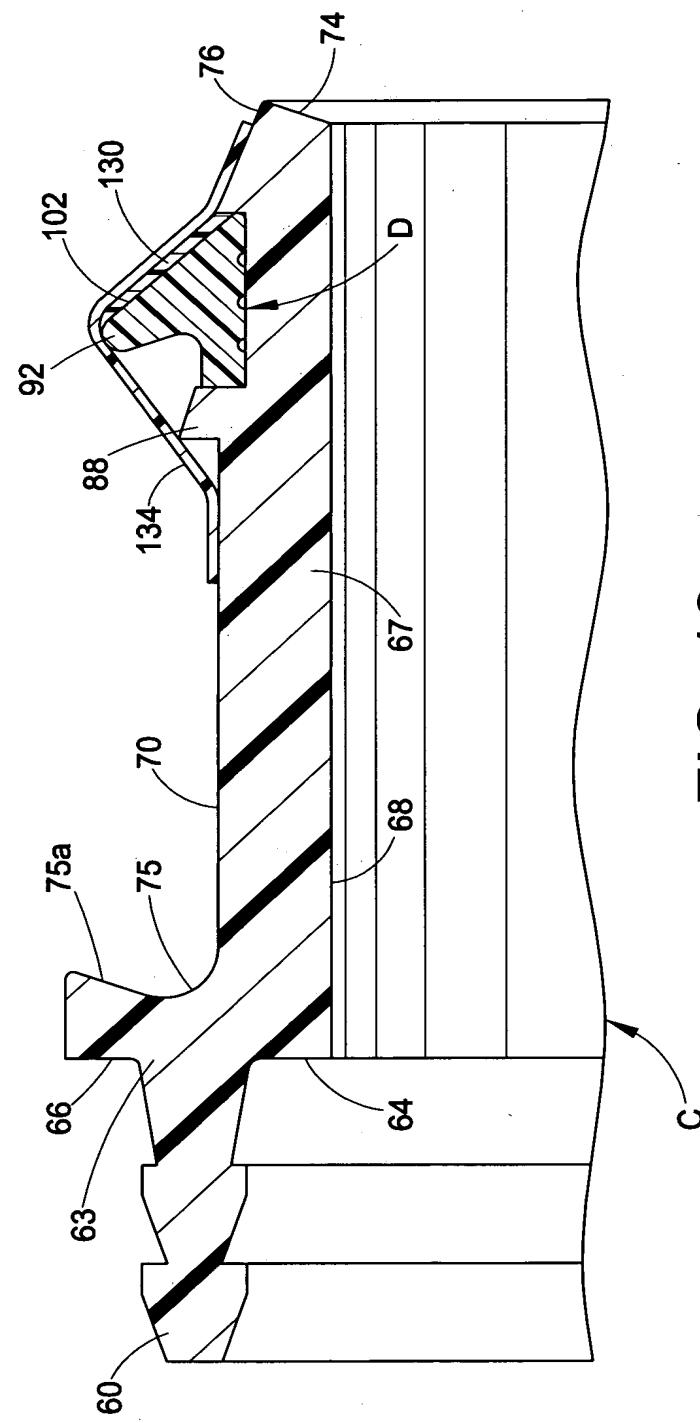
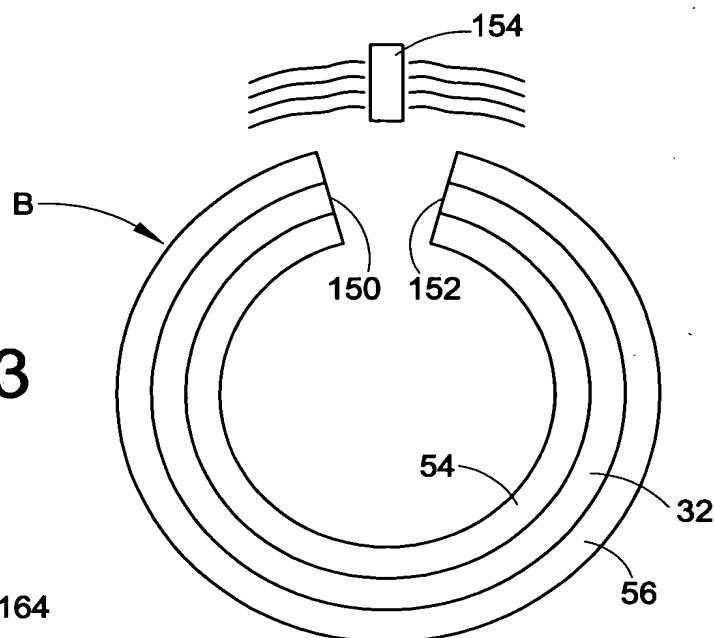


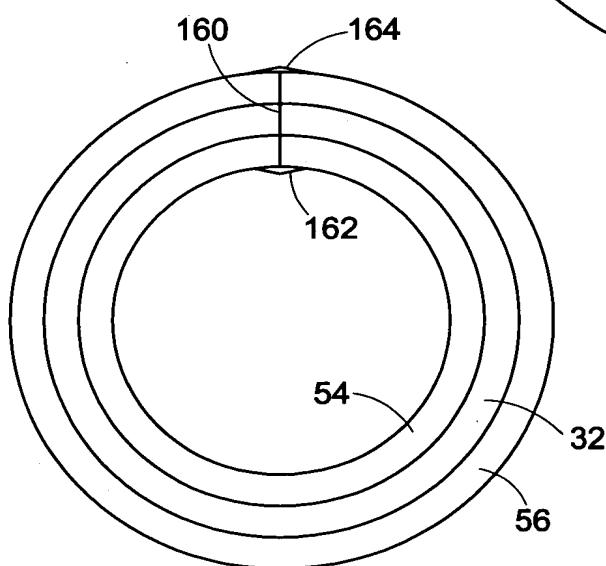
FIG. 12



**FIG. 13**



**FIG. 14**



**FIG. 15**

